



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and have had a good summer. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families starting with us in Year 7 and across the school. It is positive to see the larger than normal number of applicants that are joining us from Years 8 to 11; we are pleased to have you join us.

I am delighted to share the exciting news that Danebury School is officially open! We are eager to welcome our pupils back tomorrow morning and make a positive start to the academic year. I hope they notice the differences and recognise the input they have had in the rebranding.

As a team we are invigorated to be embarking on this new chapter in the school's history. We are proud of the school's heritage and will hold close the things which made Test Valley unique. Our ambition and values remain steadfast. We continue to build an ambitious learning environment where high expectations promote excellent learning habits and success is experienced by all.

Our values underpin all that we do and are lived every day. I have revisited our values with staff this morning and will do so with our pupils tomorrow morning to ensure our positive culture continues.

An incredible amount of work has gone into refreshing the school and I thank our Business Manager, Cara Rees, Site Team and Data Manager, Monica Freeman, for their hard work over the summer. Classrooms are looking more modern with new blinds, desks and displays and we have new signage around the site.

As with any big changes there will be bumps in the road. I'm aware that some of you didn't receive your uniform until the weekend and/or weren't contacted by Hampshire Country Council about transport until recently. I apologise for any inconvenience caused. Although these issues are largely out of our hands, we will do all we can to support you. If you're still having issues, please do get in touch.

On our Inset Day today we were joined by a small number of new staff. We welcome Mrs Efe, our new Art Teacher, and Mr Hardy, our new Pastoral Support Officer. We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Whitehead as our ELSA Lead. Mrs White has taken on the role of Head of Year 11, following Mr Langdown's retirement. Mr Thomas is now Head of Year 7 & 8 and Miss Cleaver-Bailey is Head of Year 9 & 10.



Here is a reminder of the new school day and a link to the uniform policy ([link](#))

**08:40 – 09:10 Line ups/tutor/assemblies**

**09:10 – 10:10 Lesson 1**

**10:10 – 11:10 Lesson 2**

**11:10 – 11:35 Break 1 – 25 minutes**

**11:35 – 12:35 Lesson 3**

**12:35 – 13:35 Lesson 4**

**13:35 – 14:05 Break 2 – 30 minutes**

**14:05 – 14:10 5-minute movement**

**14:10 – 15:10 Lesson 5**

Tomorrow morning all pupils will be given a planner to help them with their organisation on a daily basis. This year pupils will be responsible for taking their books home to complete homework in or to revise from. As staff we need to promote independence and help pupils get into good habits for life after school. I'm sure some pupils will have no problem organising themselves, however, there will be a few who will need support with this initially. Please help your child get into good routines by preparing their bags the night before.

Another classroom initiative we are moving to this academic year is assessment books/folders in each subject. These books will remain in school and assessments will be completed and stored in them. It will be great to see the progress over time and share this with you on parent and carer evenings. Teachers will mark and give feedback in these books, and pupils will respond to the feedback and make improvements to their work.

This year one of our school priorities is reading. Reading well is a core skill that not only helps students academically, but research shows that students who read improve their life chances, have better mental health, and increase their confidence, to name but a few of the benefits. As part of a student's essential equipment, they should have a reading book in their bag. During English lessons students will have the opportunity to visit the library once a fortnight; they will also participate in the Accelerated Reader programme, (more details to follow later in the term). Every day all the students will have the opportunity to read for pleasure for twenty minutes. Please can you support this initiative by reminding your child that they need to bring their book in every day. Tutors will check all essential equipment daily.

Here is a link to our new website ([link](#)), please check out the links to our social media platforms on our website, we are keen to increase our following. Our school emails will remain @testvalley.hants.sch.uk for the next year. The quotes we received for a domain change were high; we felt the money was better spent on educational resources which directly improve outcomes for our pupils. The domain change will happen next year.



We will be holding our annual **Open Evening on September 11<sup>th</sup> 18:00-20:00**, please spread the word!

As ever, if you have any questions or need support, please contact us.

Warm wishes,

Nicky Goodridge  
Head of School  
Danebury School